

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 EB-11 L-03 AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

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USIA-15 DRC-01 CEA-02 CIEP-02 /085 W

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R 091822Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1877

INFO ALL AMCONSULS IN CANADA

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2410

FOR COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN CONSUMER PACKAGING AND LABELLING
REGULATIONS.

REF : OTTAWA 2380

1. PARA 2 OF REFTEL CITED SECTIONS 4, 5, 6 AND 7 OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR PARTIAL AND TEMPORARY EXEMPTIONS. EMBASSY WISHES TO CALL SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SECTION 5, WHICH GENERALLY RPT GENERALLY EXEMPTS FOOD PRODUCTS FROM REGULATIONS FOR 24 RPT 24 MONTHS FROM TIME FINAL REGULATIONS ARE PROMULGATED AND ALL OTHER PRODUCTS FOR 18 RPT 18 MONTHS.

2. CANADIAN IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION ESTIMATES THAT SOME 46,000 IMPORTED PRODUCTS WILL BE AFFECTED BY PROPOSED REGULATIONS, AND THAT COSTS OF MEETING LABELLING REQUIREMENTS WILL BE "AWESOME" AND MAY RESULT IN MANY IMPORTED PACKAGED PRODUCTS BEING WITHDRAWN FROM SALE IN CANADA.

3. EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED REGULATIONS WITH SENIOR OFFICIAL OF DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS WHO: (1) BELIEVED THAT NUMBER OF AFFECTED PRODUCTS WOULD BE IN NEIGHBORHOOD
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OF 40,000; (2) ACKNOWLEDGED SOME COST INVOLVED AND GOC

AWARE OF THIS; AND (3) SAID THE OBVIOUS, THAT MANUFACTURERS WOULD HAVE TO ACCOMMODATE. ON OTHER HAND, HE BELIEVED THAT MANY MANUFACTURERS HAVE INCORPORATED REQUIRED LABELLING CHANGES IN THEIR PLANNING AND, AS FIRMS NORMALLY CHANGE LABELS FAIRLY FREQUENTLY, CHANGES REQUIRED BY PROPOSED REGULATIONS COULD BE MADE SMOOTHLY AT MINIMUM COST. HE CONCEDED THAT U.S. MANUFACTURERS PRODUCING MAINLY FOR DOMESTIC MARKET BUT ALSO SHIPPING TO CANADA WOULD HAVE A PROBLEM OF SEPARATE LABELLING, BUT BELIEVED SUCH FIRMS COULD WORK THIS OUT.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES IMPACT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS ON U.S. COMPANIES CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED BY COMPANIES THEMSELVES, AND WISHES TO STRESS NOVEMBER 22 RPT NOVEMBER 22 AS DATE BY WHICH COMPANIES MAY MAKE WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS TO ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER (CONSUMER AFFAIRS), DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS, OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1A 0C9. SCHMIDT

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